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TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION BOROUGH OF LOSTWITHIEL.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year 1938.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area..... 3050 acres .

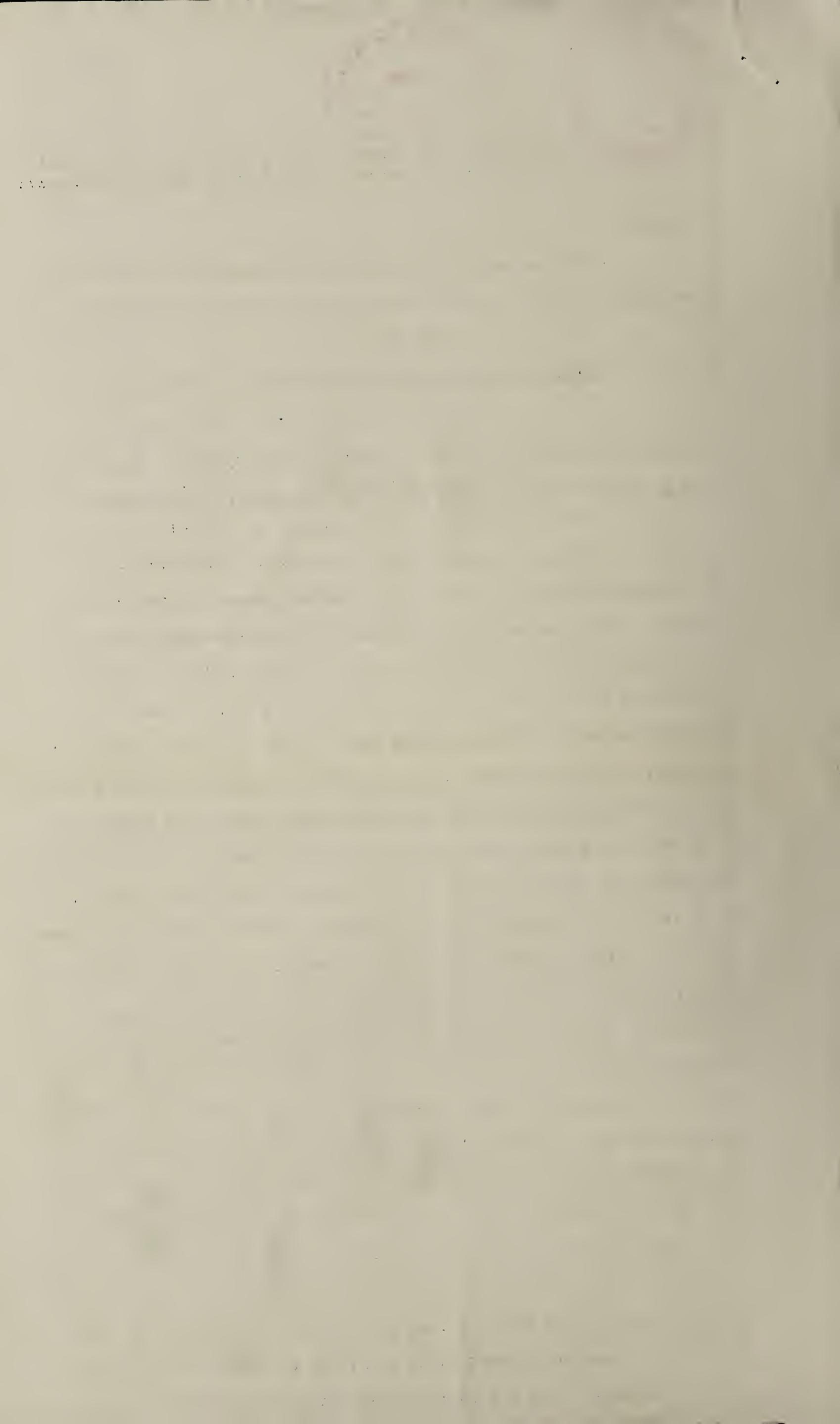
Population..... 1925

Number of inhabited houses..... 664

Rateable value..... £8611

Sum represented by a 1d. rate... £35:17:7d.

The social activities of the area should adequately meet the demand. Never before in the history of this Country has it been more important that everyone, young and old, should so fit themselves so as to be able to pull their weight in some form of National Service. This applies more directly to the younger generation and it is therefore a matter for great regret that the Boy Scout movement in this area is not so alive as it once was. This is a very priceless organisation which should not be allowed to lapse. In many respects it is unique in its conception, universal in its outlook and a splendid grounding for any youngster to fit him for the battle of Life. Among many other useful acquirements it teaches cleanliness of mind and of body, discipline without militarism, pride without prudery and service without sanction. Parents should do all they can to persuade their young sons to become Scouts and, by so doing, they will always have the satisfaction of knowing that they have done what they could towards giving their boys a good start in life. The hope that I expressed in my last report of a possible lessening of unemployment due to public works has, I regret to say, not been realised. This has been due to the fact that the making of the bye-pass road had to be held up pending the completion of the bridges. I should again stress the need in this area for a playing field. This matter has been frequently mooted but



probably owing to other more urgent considerations it has been
allowed to lapse and it is in the hope that it may again receive
your consideration that I mention it once more. I feel sure
that the younger generation would, if given encouragement, come
to regard the principle of keeping fit as a very vital one and
would take a pride in doing so. By giving the youngsters a
playing field you will also be giving them the opportunity of
showing their prowess and of imbuing in them the spirit of
competition, both of which attributes are very strong in healthy
youth.

Vital Statistics :-

Live Births (M. F.
(Legitimate....18 11 Total 30
(Illegitimate....- 1

Still Births, nil.

Birth Rate per 1000 of population..... 16.1

Deaths.....13...7 Total 30

Death Rate per 1000 of population.....7.42

The local Birth and Death Rates per 1000 of population for the Year 1937 were 12.6 and 12.8 respectively.

The Birth and Death Rates per 1000 of population for England and Wales smaller towns for the Year 1938 were 17.3 and 12.8 respectively.

Deaths of infants under one year.....	1
Deaths from Dancer.	2
do. Measles.....	nil
do. Whooping Cough.....	nil
do. Diarrhoea (under two years).....	nil
do. Puerperal causes.....	nil

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

2 (i) Public Health Officers of the authority:-

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Sanitary Inspector, under date of the Royal Sanitary Institute: also holds the office of Borough Surveyor.

(ii) There have been no developments or changes in the following services:- Laboratories and Ambulance facilities Nursing in the Home, Clinics, Treatment Centres and Hospitals.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (1) *Large* Room and two smaller to copy for the great one

the Ford supply, which supplies the old borough, the other, the Collebeacon supply which supplies the Millend area. The two supplies are intercommunicating.

In my Annual Report for 1937 I state, in connection with the Ford supply that "...in certain parts of the area supplied from this "source complaints have been made of insufficient supply and "the matter should be attended to". Since I made this statement things have gone from bad to worse and complaints have been frequent and urgent. Many have reached me but I will refer to one the circumstances of which should convince you of the urgency of this matter. The tenants of this particular house were without water for domestic purposes for two days and one of the occupiers was suffering from a chronic and infectious disease. I feel it my duty to warn you of the very grave consequences which might arise if such a state of affairs is allowed to continue and to express the opinion that the time is past when this matter can be adequately dealt with by discussion. We should bear in mind the calamity of Croydon. I am fully conscious of the economic factor which of course has to be seriously considered but this should not obliterate the fact that we, as the local authority, are under a statutory obligation to the rate-payers to furnish them with a good and sufficient water supply. Not only the health but also the welfare of the area depend on a good water supply. It is too serious a matter to treat in a Macawber manner. Legislation is very largely based on public opinion and it is only right, I think, that the public should know the true state of affairs and I therefore present the following facts which are based on data supplied by experts. The springs at Ford feed two reservoirs, one of 50,000 and the other of 40,000 gallons capacity and the water from these is carried to the town in about three miles of four inch cast iron pipes. The greater part of the distribution system is in three inch cast iron pipes. It is estimated that there is an overflow from these springs of approximately 24,000 gallons a day. These works were laid down about 45 years ago. During 1912 another reservoir of 80,000 gallons capacity was built at St. George's Park and connected to the old four inch system. About eleven years ago

part of the old four inch supply main was scraped but not relined or treated in any way. Since then corrosion has again taken place very rapidly and to such an extent that the main is probably only equivalent to a two and a half inch pipe. The water at the source is not treated and, being somewhat plumbo-solvent, corrosion takes place more rapidly. About seventy houses (representing about 250 persons) are entirely dependent for their supply on the St. George's Park reservoir and during the peak drawing periods of the day it is necessary to divert the water from this reservoir back into the old distribution system to ensure that all properties are with a supply of water. The nightly flow to St. George's Park reservoir is about 7,000 gallons and it is difficult to ensure that all properties during all hours of the day are with a constant supply of water. It has been found necessary to continually shut the town off by night and thus to isolate all automatic flushing tanks in order to divert as much water as possible to St. George's Park reservoir. That there is a considerable amount of waste by commercial users is an admitted fact. How this problem is to be met I will not presume to suggest but, on reviewing the above facts, there would appear to be grounds for grave concern as to the future of the water supply from the source in question. First it should be considered whether or not the springs under ideal conditions yield sufficient to give a continuous and ample supply to the whole of the area supplied by them. The experts have not suggested that this is not so and it is necessary therefore to find out why, if there is a sufficiency, it is not delivered. It would also appear from a study of the various reports and as a result of numerous tests that if there was a 6" main from the source to the town or, possibly, if the existing 4" main was scraped and lined and in addition the water was treated at the source in order to remove its plumbo-solvency, the St. George's reservoir could be kept full and the waste of 24,000 gallons of water a day would be prevented. Corrosion, if it exists at all, is bound to be a continuous process which of course means that what is bad now will be worse in twelve months time. Certain circumstances, such as the finding and repair of leaks, lessening of waste, a wet season, &c,

may induce you to think that the urgency is lessened, as it might be for the time. But such an apparent improvement should not allow of the obliteration of the main issue. As long as we continue as we are we are living in a fool's paradise. Too much reliance should not be placed on the Collebeacon springs as a supplementary supply. These springs have not yet been tried out but when they have it may be that their yield, under certain conditions, will not be more than sufficient for the Bridgend area. The only conclusion it is possible to come to is that we have to face the facts and act accordingly. In my opinion it would be a very dangerous and unwise policy to take as long in putting this matter in hand as was the case in the Bridgend supply - a period of four years - as it is in certain respects much more urgent. The Collebeacon works are nearing completion and should be the means of assuring a good and sufficient supply for the Bridgend area. It is estimated that the spring collected for this purpose should give a yield of 20,000 gallons a day: the consumption of this area is estimated at 15,000 gallons a day. In addition to the spring mentioned above an option is held by the Council to extract 10,000 gallons a day from two other springs and the taking up of this option should be seriously considered. This supply is connected up with the Ford supply.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage:- Except as the result of new building operations there has been no extension of the sewerage. I regret that I have again to remind you of the importance of having a plan of the sewers as, as far as I am aware such still does not exist.

(iii) Rivers and Streams:- No action has been taken to prevent the pollution of the river and streams by the town sewerage.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation:- Apart from those outside the drainage area there are no closets on the conservancy system in the area.

(ii) Public Cleansing:- House refuse is now collected by a new and more modern refuse cart which is a great improvement on the old one.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area:- The following is the Sanitary Inspector's report:-

Number of dwellinghouses inspected.....	22
Inspections of Bakeries.....	10
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies.....	12
Inspections of Shops.....	6

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(iv) Shops and Offices:- It has not been necessary to take any action under this heading.

(v) Camping sites:-

(1) The number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938.....1

(2) The number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the local authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.....1

(3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938....6

(vi) Smoke Abatement:- It has not been necessary to take any action under this heading.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools:- I again have to express my regret that no provision under this heading has yet been made in the area. I have in many previous reports stressed the need for such and still hope that, should the opportunity arise, the matter will receive your consideration.

(viii) Eradication of bed bugs:- I am pleased to say that it has not been necessary to take any action under this heading.

4. Schools:- The sanitary condition and water supply of the Council Schools are satisfactory. The sanitary condition of the Downend School is satisfactory and the water supply will very shortly be satisfactory.

Other Sanitary Matters:- For many years past I have repeatedly stressed the urgent necessity for the provision of a mortuary in the area. That this is a real urgency is borne out by the following incidents. Rather than make a post-mortem in a dwelling-house I did so in my garden. A non-resident died in the town as the result of an accident and I ordered the corpse to be taken to the old fire station and for some reason it was removed from there and placed in the old kitchen at the Municipal Offices. In these days it is quite unjustifiable to make a post-mortem in an occupied dwelling-house and I am sure that none of you would like one done in your house. Neither would you wish for anyone, who was near and dear to you, when dead to be housed anywhere

however discreditable. I once more commend this matter for your immediately consideration.

Your choice of Mr. Buller as your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor has proved a very wise and essentially satisfactory one. He works hard and has a very sound and comprehensive knowledge of his profession in all its intricate branches. In my last annual report I expressed the doubt as to whether the duties of the two offices could be satisfactorily carried out by one official and I am still in doubt. The work that Mr. Buller is expected to do is already more than sufficient and if added to will tend to prevent him from reaching that degree of general efficiency which, under moderation, he is anxious and able to attain.

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-

- (1) (a) Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.....6
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...22
- (2) (a) Number (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.....Nil.
- (3) Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....6
- (4) Number (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....16

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....2

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

- (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....2
 - (2) Number rendered fit after service of formal notice
 - (a) By owners.....2
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

4. Housing Act, 1936. (Particulars of Overcrowding)

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year. Nil.

During the year under review four Clearance Orders have been confirmed by the Minister on your instigation. These are as follows: No. 1 (Philp's Court), order made on 7th September, 1937 and confirmed by the Minister on 20th January 1938: No. 2 (corporate property, the Moors), order made on 1st February, 1938 and confirmed by the Minister on 30th August, 1938: No. 3 (Lever's Court), order made on 1st February, 1938 and confirmed by the Minister on 14th October, 1938: No. 4 (Walkham's Row), order made on 5th April, 1938 and confirmed by the Minister on 14th October, 1938. All of these became operative nine months after the orders were made. I feel it my duty to remind you that when the seal of the Council was affixed to these Orders you undertook to "provide, or secure the provision of, such accommodation in accordance with the requirements of the Act" and at the same time indicated "that the resources of the Council are sufficient for the purpose of carrying into effect the resolution next hereinafter recited." All the houses involved in these Clearance Orders, with the exception of No. 4, are still standing and many are still occupied. It is obvious that the delay in carrying out the provisions of these Orders is due to the fact that, for some reason or other, the further building scheme has been held up. For this there would not appear to be any justification and the time is overdue when we should honour our self-imposed obligations.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply:- Periodical inspections of farms, cowsheds and dairies have been made and as a result of representations certain improvements have been made. No examinations of samples for bacterial content or for tubercle bacilli have been made. It has not been necessary to take any action under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 or the Milk (Special Designations) Orders,

1936 and 1938.

(b) Meat and other Foods:- Periodic inspections have been made of slaughterhouses and meat shops.

Carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
No. Inspected	41	15	124	132
Diseases other than Tuberculosis: whole carcase condemned	4	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected	9.5			
Tuberculosis only: whole carcase condemned.	-	-	-	-
Heads condemned.	-	-	-	26
Percentage of number inspected.				12.3

It is only practicable to examine a small proportion of the total animals slaughtered and dressed. sheep and pigs are slaughtered in large numbers for the London Market.

(c) Adulteration, &c. No action has been taken under this heading.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food:- None have been made.

(e) Nutrition:- No special enquiry has been taken under this heading.

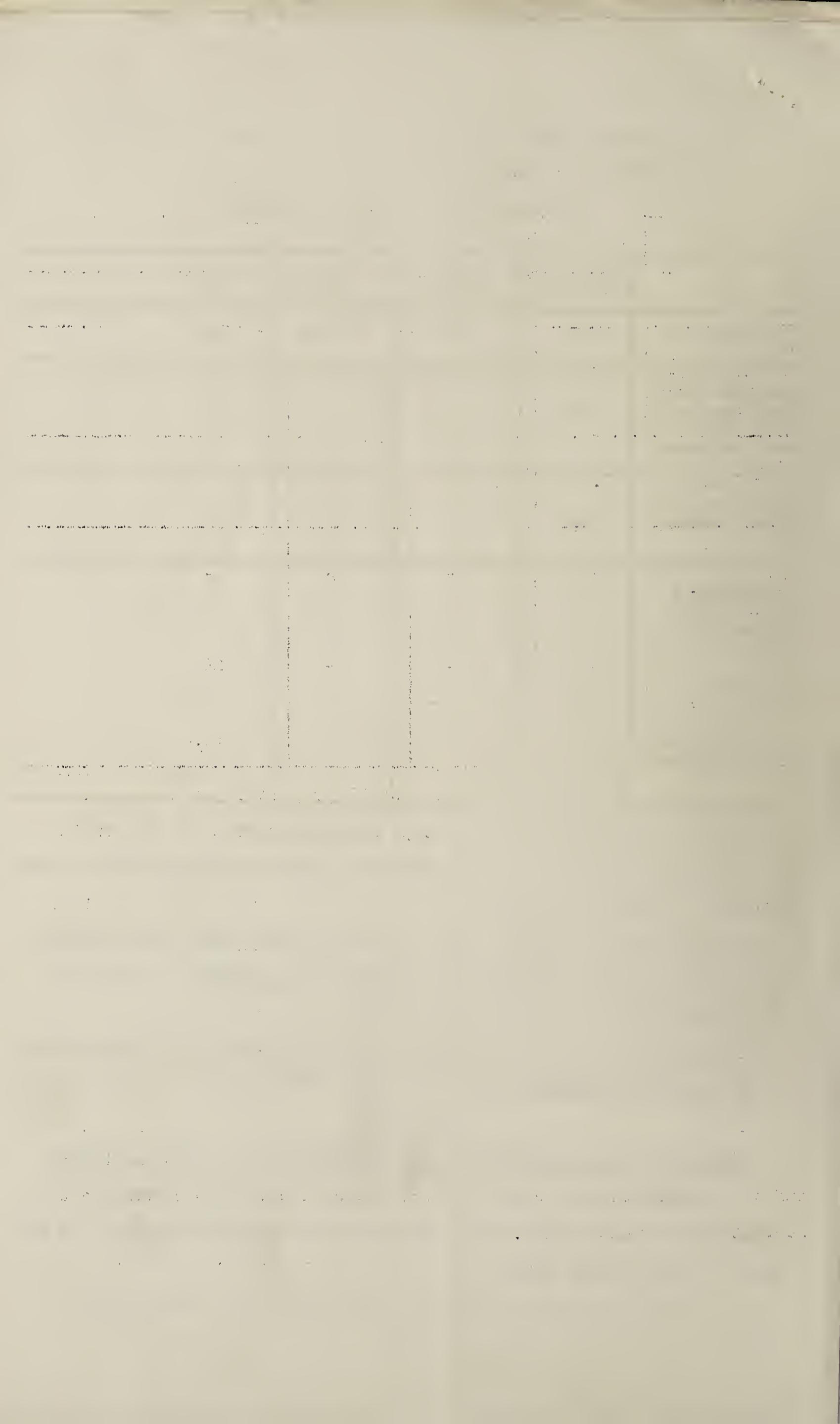
(f) Shell-fish (Molluscant):- There are no shell-fish beds in the area.

SECTION 4.

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

I regret to say that there is still no accessible hospital for infectious diseases and cases requiring such accommodation have to be sent at least twenty miles.

No action has been taken to provide artificial immunization against diphtheria or in regard to the use of mumps serum for prophylaxis.



Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1931.

Disease	Total cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Pneumonia	11	2	2
Scarlet Fever	1	nil	nil
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum	1	nil	nil

4. (a) Prevention of Blindness:- No action has been necessary under this heading.

(b) Tuberculosis:- No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936. There were two new respiratory cases aged 62 and 17 respectively notified during the year and no deaths. The number of cases on the register at the end of the year were three males and two females.

Presented to the Council,

(signed) Fredk. H. Rudge,

4th July, 1939,

Medical Officer of Health.

